

THREAT HIGHLIGHT

Threat Assessment for the Sochi Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games

1. The objective of this document is to provide Canadians who will be travelling to Russia and plan to attend the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games (WOPG) with information on the terrorist threat in Russia. (U)

2. Large-scale international events such as the WOPG can present an attractive target for terrorists. There is presently no specific threat to Canadians at the Games; however, terrorism in the North Caucasus, close to Sochi, has been an almost daily reality since the Chechen Wars in the 1990s. Russian security will be extensive, but this does not eliminate the risk of terrorist attacks. Lone actor attacks, such as occurred at the Boston Marathon in 2013, are particularly difficult for authorities to detect in advance. (U)

3. The top terrorist threat in Russia and the most likely threat to the WOPG are from individuals linked to, or inspired by, the North Caucasus-based terrorist umbrella group, Imirat Kavkaz (IK, Caucasus Emirate). Canada listed [IK as a terrorist entity](#) in December 2013. Doku Umarov formed the group in 2007 with the objective of creating an Islamist caliphate. Attacks by the IK and its predecessors have taken place in the North Caucasus region but also in central Russia. (U)

4. In a July 2013 online video, Umarov called on his followers to stop the WOPG. The December 2013 suicide bombings in Volgograd, which killed 34, may be linked to IK and intended to discourage attendance. On 2014 01 20 a video posted on an extremist website claimed responsibility for the Volgograd attacks on behalf of the Dagestan Vilayat, a component of the IK. The individuals in the video threatened attacks on tourists attending the Games. (U)

5. Historically, the IK has targeted Russian authorities (security and military forces), public transportation (airports, railways, buses), and other infrastructure. Should an attack occur during the Olympics, potential targets could be in the Sochi area as well as in comparatively less secured locations, including

Notable Attacks by IK and its Predecessors



IK leader Doku Umarov

January 2011: Moscow's Domodedovo International Airport (36 killed, 200 injured) (U)

March 2010: Moscow subway suicide bomb (40 killed, 100 injured) (U)

November 2009: Nevskiy Express Train north of Moscow (27 killed, 130 injured) (U)

September 2004: The Beslan School Siege (385 killed, 783 injured) (U)

August 2004: Two Russian planes destroyed mid-flight by suicide bombers (89 killed) (U)

May 2004: Murder of pro-Moscow Chechen President using a bomb pre-positioned in a sports stadium (30 killed, 56 injured) (U)

February 2004: Moscow subway suicide bombing (41 killed 120 injured)

October 2002: Nord-Ost Theatre Hostage Siege in Moscow (170 killed, 700 injuries) (U)

Moscow and other places where foreigners could be

transiting to and from the Games. IK tactics feature suicide bombings (including by women) and military-style assaults. (U)

6. While IK is the only known terrorist group which has expressed an intention to target the WOPG, other groups and individuals could also attempt terrorist attacks. Canadians should consult the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) [Travel Advisory for Russia](#) page and the [Travelling to Sochi](#) page for important updated information on Russian security conditions, entry and exit requirements, health, laws and culture, natural disasters and climate. Canadians travelling to Russia are encouraged to register with the [Registration of Canadians Abroad](#) service offered by DFATD. Furthermore, Canadians should maintain a high level of security awareness at all times and places, avoid demonstrations, monitor local developments, and follow the advice of local authorities. (U)

The Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre (ITAC)

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